



**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 2021

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES SETTLEMENT IN CIVIL CASE  
AGAINST PESTMASTER SERVICE LP**

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office announced today that their office, along with 16 other District Attorney's Offices in California, resolved a civil case involving pesticide violations and unfair business practices against Jeffrey M. Van Diepen and Pestmaster Services LP (formerly known as Pestmaster Services Inc.).

The stipulated judgment requires the defendants to pay \$575,000 in penalties and costs, contract-out employee training, give prior notice to county officials of pesticide applications, hire an outside compliance manager, and imposes other restrictions ensuring their compliance with the law. Mr. Van Diepen was required to permanently surrender his California pest control licenses.

The civil complaint alleged, and Van Diepen and Pestmaster admitted to, the following:

- Submitting a proposal to the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2015 with misleading statements indicating that Pestmaster's policies and procedures were in compliance with all EPA, OSHA, federal, state, and local regulatory guidance.
- Performing pesticide applications for hire without registering with the County Agricultural Commissioner.
- Performing pesticide applications without submitting monthly pesticide use reports.
- Performing structural pest control work between November 21, 2017 and January 3, 2018, and between October 15, 2020 and January 27, 2021, without a valid license.
- Failing to ensure their employees were properly trained and failing to use all required personal protective equipment.
- Making recommendations for pesticide use without having a Pest Control Advisor license and without registering with the County Agricultural Commissioner.
- Allowing unlicensed individuals to contract for structural pest control work or performing structural pest control work without being properly licensed.
- Failing to leave the required notices at the properties at which pesticide applications were made.

The violations started in 2015. Several County Agricultural Commissioners issued Pestmaster notices of violation. The violations continued after a District Attorney's Office contacted the company in 2017. Pestmaster is a nationally franchised company headquartered in Reno, Nevada, and holds many government contracts for pesticide work.

Media may email [FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov) with questions.